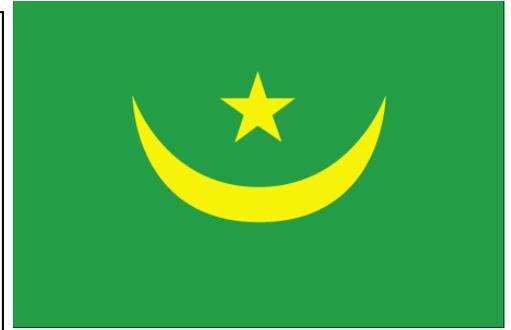


Mauritania

- ◆ The capital city of Mauritania is Nouakchott.
- ◆ Nearly all Mauritians practice Islam. There is no religious freedom and it is illegal to print any books having to do with Christianity, or to speak about Christianity.
- ◆ The official language of Mauritania is Arabic.
- ◆ Mauritania is one of the largest nations in Africa.
- ◆ Mauritania consists mostly of desert.
- ◆ Mauritania suffers many droughts and the temperatures can get as high as 120 degrees Fahrenheit.
- ◆ Mauritania's laws are based on *sharia*, or Muslim law.
- ◆ Mauritania only has one television channel!
- ◆ Mauritanian farmers grow millet, rice, dates, and sorghum, and they raise cattle, sheep, and goats.
- ◆ The largest group of people living there are the Moors.
- ◆ Only about one-half of the Mauritanian population can read and write, and more of these are male than female.



Story: The Best Kept Secret

From her earliest memories, Malouma was up before the sun to begin her work. She lit the fires, milked the camels, and prepared the morning meal. After her master left the home she would begin the long trek to the well for water. When she was done hauling water back and forth, she would begin to collect firewood. As if that weren't enough, there were always the master's children to look after.

If Malouma was not doing chores, she was tied up like an animal. When her eyes and knees began to fail her, her master threw her out of the only home she had ever known, telling her that he was following the law by setting her free.

She left with nothing to show for her years of faithful service except the clothes on her back and her crippled body, twisted from being tied up and confined for hours on end.

Story cont...

Malouma's mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother had served this same family. Even though slavery was made illegal in Mauritania in 2007, it is still as common as it was 800 years ago when it all began.

Slavery is deeply rooted in Mauritania. Dark-skinned men, women, and children known as *Haratine* carry out orders under the threat of being beaten. They work as shepherds, servants, cooks, babysitters, and many other jobs. They have no money or education. Their masters are pale-skinned Arab *Moors*. Even though slavery is illegal, the law is ignored and it continues. In fact, the government pretends it doesn't even exist. Only Jesus Christ can truly set these captives free.



Recipe: Couscous

Ingredients for the couscous:

900 g couscous	200 g dates, pitted and chopped
100 g raisins	250 g cooked chickpeas
50 g butter	

Mix dates, raisins, and chickpeas into the couscous and add just enough water to soften. Place dampened couscous in a colander lined with cheesecloth or muslin. Place over a pot of boiling water and steam until done (about 25 minutes).



Activity: Liguam

Liguam is a traditional favorite in Mauritania. You may know it as tug-o-war.

To play Liguam, you need at least two players. Divide the children into two teams. Place a line of masking tape on the floor, have the teams stand on opposite sides of it, and hold the rope. The object of the game is to pull on the rope to get the other team to cross the tape line. The team that pulls the hardest is the winner.

Another way to play is to have two children compete with each other. The winner gets to play the next child in line.



Go to www.frontlinekids.com/resources to find lesson supplemental materials such as: prayer points, recipes, maps, videos, printable coloring sheets and more.